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Cultivating National Competitors

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Cultivating National Competitors

Tosh Family Short Course gives Ole Miss golf teams competitive edge

AUGUST 20, 2021 BY BILL DABNEY

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Members and coaches of the Ole Miss women's golf team celebrate winning the 2021 NCAA championship in May in Scottsdale, Arizona. The team used the Tosh Family Short Course to hone their skills in practice and advance to winning the program's first national championship. Photo by Josh McCoy/Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

OXFORD, Miss. – A former **University of Mississippi** faculty member's gift to the Ole Miss golf program has literally become a game changer.

"After the course opened in 2019, I really saw our program take off," said Kory Henkes, head women's golf coach. "Since that time, we've won eight golf tournaments – two of those being the SEC championship, which we won about three months after the facility opened, and the national championship this past year."

Henkes is referring to the Tosh Family Short Course, a golf practice facility developed with a \$1 million gift from retired real estate professor Dennis Tosh and his wife, Beth. The Oxford couple has recently committed a second \$1 million gift to the golf program, which will be used to renovate the teams' headquarters by updating office spaces, upgrading locker rooms and adding player lounges.



Coach Kory Henkes (left) works with Ole Miss Rebels golfer Kennedy Swann. Photo by Josh McCoy/Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

"I know without a doubt that our wins would not have been possible without the Tosh Family Short Course," said Henkes, who was **named 2020-21 Division I National Coach of the Year** by the Women's Golf Coaches Association and the SEC Coach of the Year. "We spend 80% of our practice time on it."

The facility boasts eight different greens with multiple elevation changes, two types of grass (Bermuda and zoysia), numerous deep pot bunkers, shallow bunkers, areas of rough, a sound system through which student-athletes can play their music of choice, lights for night practices and more.

All these features enable the student-athletes to work on their short game by replicating scenarios they may face in the heat of competition.

"The majority of the time we're working on 7-irons and under, so a lot of your scoring clubs – you know, the ones that help you make those birdies and pars," Henkes said. "So we get to work

on a lot of our short game, which is the most important part of our game."

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Campus Briefs

Civil Engineering Professor Receives Most-Cited Paper Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation's capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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Ole Miss In the News

Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to

Chris Malloy, head men's golf coach, said the short game could be any par 3 distance, for example.

"Before we leave for a golf tournament, we have a general idea of what the length of the par 3 is going to be and what it looks like – what shape the green is, what size, uphill, downhill, if it's over a hazard or not – and we can replicate the shots our guys and girls will need to play," Malloy said.

"They've seen those shots a hundred times before they actually get to the tournament and play the course."

It makes the student-athletes not only more competitive, but also more confident, the coaches said.

"For instance at the East Lake Cup, Julia Johnson had this really hard shot and I said, 'Julia, that's just like we practiced every day at the short course on our 6 green,' Henkes said. "You know you have to hit that high soft shot.' So just putting them back in that situation takes a little bit of the pressure and stress off of them when they know they've already practiced it."

This year, the women's golf team **captured the fourth team national championship and first outright NCAA Championship title** in Ole Miss athletics history. The Rebels claim a share of three national championships in football in 1959, 1960 and 1962. Including individual titles, the Rebels boast 26 total national championships all-time.

"I can't speak for Dennis and Beth, but I think it's exciting for them to witness what a difference the short course has made," Malloy said. "They've seen Braden Thornberry winning a national championship. They've seen our women's team winning both national and SEC championships.

"Those are all tangible. Without their support and gifts, we wouldn't be able to achieve those wins. And, I think the best is yet to come for both programs."

Dennis Tosh was among the spectators at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, when the Rebels claimed their title – an experience he will never forget.

"It was a storybook finish in the way they played and the way they respect the game of golf," he recalled. "They love each other. They cheer for each other. And I was fortunate enough to be able to stand by the 17th hole to see them close out the match with hugs and kisses and tears.

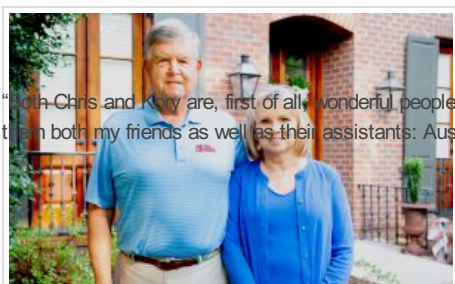
"It was super. It was unbelievable. It was one of those experiences when you just think, 'I'm glad I'm here.'"

Henkes remembers the moment well.

"It was truly incredible and the best part was having Dr. Tosh out there to celebrate with us because he's just as big a part of this team," she said. "This wouldn't be possible without him and his family and their generous support of the golf program.

"It's truly special to have people like that who want to give back to the student-athletes and make their college experience that much better. It was just the icing on the cake."

Malloy agreed: "I think anyone who knows Dr. Tosh knows what a selfless guy he is. He and Beth, and the entire family for that matter, are really family of ours. We spend a lot of time together. His passion for Ole Miss and athletics programs – and especially Ole Miss golf – is unrivaled really."



Coach Chris Malloy consults with Ole Miss Rebels golfer Sarut Vongchaisit. Photo by Josh McCoy/Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

An avid golfer, Tosh said he's humbled by the coaches' remarks.

"Both Chris and Mary are, first of all, wonderful people, wonderful coaches," he said. "I'm happy to call them both my friends as well as their assistants: Austin and Zack. If this gift helps them in preparing, recruiting and being competitive, that just helps us feel better than we already feel.

"They were really in need of a practice facility, and God has blessed my family in many ways. To be able to share some of those blessings with the university was an easy decision for us to make."

Dennis and Beth Tosh. Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

Tosh retired from the university in 2003 after he and three other business professors founded FNC Inc., a provider of real estate collateral information technology serving the nation's largest lenders. FNC was

abate. The Federal Reserve's

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sold to California-based Core Logic in 2015.

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